



WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

(Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal)

Paribesh Bhawan

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MEMO NO.: 595-WBPCB-RO-I/R/967/2006

DATED : 14-05-2007

DIRECTION

WHEREAS, **M/S. G. N. HALLMARKING REFINERY PVT. LTD.** (hereinafter referred as the industry) operates its gold ornaments hall marking unit at 6, Adi Banstolla Galli, Ward No.-23, P. O. – Burrabazar, P. S. - Posta, Kolkata – 700 007

WHEREAS, a public complaint was lodged against the industry before the **WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD** (hereinafter referred as the Board) for causing health hazard to the neighbouring people because of emission of acid fumes and also generation of noise mainly from the operation of D. G. set during load-shedding hours.

WHEREAS, an inspection of the unit was carried out by the Officials of the Board on 09-04-2007 and 19-04-2007. It is noted that the unit is engaged in hall marking of gold ornaments. However, they are also engaged in operation involving nitric acid both in ground floor and third floor which will result in emission of nitric acid fumes as well as nitrous gases. The unit has installed a scrubber to arrest these gases in third floor room, but no such device was found in ground floor. The unit obtained “NOC” as “Green Category” activity which does not permit use of more than 1 ltr. acid per month. During inspection six lt. of nitric acid was found to be stored. Refining of gold with nitric acid will fall under “Red Category”. Permission (NOC) for “Green Category” will not allow the unit to be engaged in gold refining process. During inspection it was also noted that the unit has installed a 15 KVA D. G. set in a third floor room without the permission of the Board. During inspection on 20th April, 2007 the owner of the unit failed to demonstrate the operation of the scrubber before the Board Officials. The unit submitted that in absence of the operator the scrubber can not be operated and as there was a power failure they were not in a position to operate the same. The unit owner also expressed his ignorance about the functioning of the scrubber mentioning that this has been installed by a company from Mumbai and the operation of the scrubber can be explained by them only.

WHEREAS, a public hearing was conducted at the head office of the Board involving the industry on 27-04-2007.

NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), 1974, Air (prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made thereunder **M/S. G. N. HALLMARKING REFINERY PVT. LTD.** is hereby directed as under.

1. That, the unit can not operate the D. G. set at the 3rd floor of the building as this will generate high vibration and noise. The D. G. set with silencer device can be installed only in the ground floor room having proper acoustic enclosures provided with adequate chimney as prescribed in the Guidelines for stack height for D. G. Sets (Pollution Control Law Series: PCLS/07/2005-2006) for emission of diesel gases coming out of the D. G. set.
2. Pending satisfactory demonstration of the scrubber for its efficacy of controlling emission of nitric acid vapour as also nitrous gases, the operation involving nitric acid which is the part of the hall marking will also remain suspended.
3. That, the unit will have to engage competent people to run the scrubber and this will only be allowed after the Board is satisfied with the operation of the scrubber through demonstration by the unit before the Board Officials.
4. As the unit was set up in the year 2004 violating the siting restriction of the Board for using not more than 1 ltr. of acid for polishing gold ornaments, the industry will have to shift their business to somewhere else like Manikanchan Park designated for such operations.

In case of the non-compliance of the above directions the entire operation of the industry will be closed by the Board.

This has the approval of the Competent Authority.

Order

Sd/-

(Dr. D. Chakraborty)

**Chief Scientist & Head-Technical Cell
West Bengal Pollution Control Board**